

TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

Published every evening, Sunday excepted, by the Tonopah Bonanza Printing Co., Incorporated.

W. W. BOOTH, EDITOR AND MANAGER

One Year	\$12.00	One Week	20¢
Six Months	6.00	One Month	1.00
Three Months	3.00	Three Months	3.00

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Entered at the post office in Tonopah as second class matter.

Official Paper for County of Nye and Town of Tonopah.

SPELLING SIMPLIFIED.

Sundry reforms are being advocated in America at the present, governmental reforms, domestic reforms, and many others. A reforming a simplified system of spelling, tho' not especially new, is creating wide attention largely because a national organization is prompting the idea. The following editorial dealing with the subject is written according to the new code, which may seem practical, but which, after all, may be in common and proper use by the next generation.

A national organization known as the Simplified Spelling Board is waging an active campaign for a new English language spelling system. It has been shown by abundant example that English spelling is marred by absurdities and inconsistencies that call for improvement if it is ever to be made a satisfactory instrument for expressing the sounds of English speech. A choice of two ways lies open to those who would undertake the task. They may elect to reform our spelling suddenly or gradually by immediate adoption of a phonetic scheme of notation or by progressive elimination of present irregularities. The Simplified Spelling Board has put itself on record as recognizing that the ultimate goal of the movement is, and must logically be, a tonic alphabet with one letter to represent, at least approximately, each separate sound heard in the standard English speech. It may be reasonably asked what the organization having this goal in view, advocates its attainment by gradual approach rather than at a single bound. The answer is, for the sole reason that we walk across the street instead of leaping from curb to curb. The one is the customary, natural method of reaching our destination, and one that experience has shown to be well within our powers. The other is theoretically more expeditious but practically would delay all progress while mankind was seeking to develop a degree of muscular energy and concentration of purpose beyond anything of which it has hitherto proved itself capable.

The changes that have been made in English spelling in the past have all come into use gradually, one or two at a time—so gradually, in fact, that at all times, as today, there have been, and are many words spelled more than one way on equal authority of good usage. Accordingly, in proposing further changes, the spellers have preferred to follow the customary method, natural to the genius of the race, rather than to attempt to force the acceptance of an entirely novel and violently revolutionary scheme of spelling, no matter how ideal and scientifically admirable it might be. The changes that have appeared in English spelling in the past have been the results of individual initiative and example—some of them inspired by knowledge, reason and common sense, but others resulting from erroneous notions concerning the true function of spelling, from ignorance of the history of the language, and from etymology of idiologic incompetence, yet accepted by a public misled by the supposed learning of writers whose literary reputations were won on other grounds than sound scholarship in English. The organization behind the simplified spelling campaign believes that changes based upon thorough knowledge of the history of English spelling, formulated by idiologic experts, put forth by a society composed of leading scholars, lexicographers and educators, and made the subject of an organized propaganda, will win recognition and acceptance much more rapidly than sporadic and haphazard changes left to ride their chances in appealing to popular fancy.

The advantages of a system of simplified spelling would be many. It may have some disadvantages. One thing is certain, it would make the English language easier to learn. The simplification of English spelling, which would be of so much demonstrated benefit to those whose native tongue is English, would also remove the obstacles to the use of English by many millions of foreigners. The superiority of English to every other language, natural or artificial, for use as a world language, would long ago have forced its adoption as such—the first language that every foreiner would wish and need to learn in addition to his own—were it not for its complicated spelling. A language, in which to learn to spell imperfectly takes two full years of school-time in the countries where it is spoken, does not recommend itself to the foreiner as a convenient medium for conducting his relations with other foreiners.

For the benefit of busy men and women who would like to begin the use of some simplified spelling without taking the time to learn the rules, and in response to many requests for a short but representative list of words in simplified spelling, the Simplified Spelling Board has made the following selections: The words in the list have been chosen with special reference to use in correspondence, and include the five type-words, "catalog," "program," "the," "thoro," "thru," of the list of twelve words adopted by the National Education Association in 1898, and since then used by it in all its official publications and correspondence:

Ad, address, anser (d), ar, enuf, fil (d), fixt, giv, shal, shipt, tel, telephone, askt, bil (d), bura, catalog, det, engrin, hav, insted, liv (d), program, recip, receiv (d), (a) tho, thoro (ly),—fare, thru (out), twely, wil, yr.

It is certain that if any revolutionary method of spelling becomes popular it must be popularized thru the schools. The adult of today, who has learned with difficulty the present system of spelling, and in many cases failed to learn it, is not likely to adopt the simplified method at this late date. It would mean learning all over again. To teach the child a simplified method, however, would be easier than to drill into the mind of the child the present more complicated method. It is a fact that too many young men and young women are turned out of secondary schools and universities—unable to spell. This is probably largely due to the fact that not enough attention is given to spelling in the schools of today. The old-fashioned spelling match is seen no more, yet it was the finest method of teaching spelling that could be devised. If a method

of simplified spelling will teach the coming generation to spell, then we favor it. The present generation can't spell. It is a deplorable condition. One finds evidences of it everywhere, in one's correspondence, in advertisements and in signs about town. Anybody who believes the people in Tonopah can spell is invited to look over some of the contributions received in this office—from our best people, too. A community spelling match between the people living on the north side of Main street and those residing on the south side would be of enlightening interest. The first dozen words wouldn't leave many standing in line we opine.

J. D. "Jack" GRANT
ANNOUNCES HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE
DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION FOR
CONSTABLE

Subject to the will of the voters at the Primary
Election, September 7, 1920.

JENNIE A. CURIEUX
ANNOUNCES HER CANDIDACY FOR
DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION FOR
AUDITOR AND RECORDER

Subject to the will of the voters at the Primary
Election, September 7, 1920.

RAY W. PIERCY
ANNOUNCES HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE
REPUBLICAN NOMINATION FOR
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

Subject to the will of the voters at the Primary
Election, September 7, 1920.

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